to the Government recently has, *inter-alia,* recommended the following measures:

* Initiate a paradigm shift from Micro-finance to Livelihood Finance;

* Debt survey to take into account newer forms of credit and indebtedness and newer forms of bondage;

* Decide on cut-off for Debt waiver in consultation with Panchayats and farmers' representatives in the distress hotspot areas; and

* Examine revival of lapsed insurance policies.

(c) and (d) The Commission has recommended reduction in the rate of interest for crop loans to 4% simple, with Government support, instead-of compound rate of interest for arrears.

It is the constant endeavour of the Government to bring down rate of interest on agricultural loans. In line with this policy, the public sector banks have been advised to reduce their lending rate for the agriculture sector to a single digit not exceeding 9% per annum on crop loans upto a ceiling of Rs. 50, 000.

NCF Recommendation on debt Survey

299. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Farmers headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has recommended that the all India debt survey should be undertaken, taken into account newer forms of credit and indebtedness and newer forms of bondage; and

(b) whether Government have taken any decision to implement the recommendation in a time bound framework?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Commission made this recommendation in its Second Interim Report submitted to the Government recently. The consultation process has begun for firming up the Government's decision in the matter.